



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 2

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Holiday Safety Tips

By Officer Mark R. Ruffennach

The holiday season is a time for giving, sharing and enjoying family and friends. Unfortunately, it also can be a time when crime becomes more prevalent. Many of us will be pre-occupied purchasing gifts, decorating our homes, entertaining visitors, or traveling out of state to visit relatives. During this busy time it is important to take a few minutes away from the "decorating duty" and practice a few holiday safety tips. There is no better gift this holiday season than a safe and healthy gathering of family and friends. With this in mind, I have listed a few holiday safety tips that will reduce your risk of becoming a victim of a crime this holiday season.

Home Safety:

Remember, more than **65%** of residential burglaries in Scottsdale are unforced. Lock your doors and windows. Close your garage doors. Place your lights on timers if you are going to be away for an extended amount of time. Remove your gifts and valuables from your vehicles upon arrival at your residence. Lock your vehicle and remove the garage door opener if you park in your driveway.

Shopping Safety:

Park in well lit areas and shop before dark if possible. Be aware of your surroundings when approaching and leaving your vehicle. Shop with friends and family members. Avoid carrying large sums of money. Never leave your purse or valuables unattended. Request mall or store security for an escort to your vehicle at night if you feel unsafe.



From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

As you read in last months *Community News* Commander Rosenberger has moved on to a new assignment in the Investigative Services Bureau. As the new District Two Commander, I would like to thank Commander Rosenberger for the time and effort he gave to the community. His leadership as the District Two Patrol Commander will be a hard act to follow, but one that I look forward to with eagerness.

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. As you read my name is Burl Haenel. I am a resident of Scottsdale and happen to live within the boundaries of District Two. I have been with the Scottsdale Police Department since 1977 and have worked in nearly all areas of the department. As a commander, I have served in a variety of assignments such as the Professional Standards Division, Special Operations Division, District One Commander and most recently as the Staff Commander in the Office of the Chief.

I look forward to this new challenge as the District Two Commander and will do my best to serve you with *excellence initiative and integrity*. Together we will continue to build positive relationships and partner with the community to improve public safety.

Have a safe and happy holiday season,

Burl Haenel

Commander, District Two



Scottsdale Fire Department Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are a time for family, food and festivities, but a lack of preparation can leave you and your family with holiday hazards. Each year, 7500 people around the United States are treated for injuries related to holiday lights, decorations and trees.

Here are some simple reminders that will help make your holiday season a safer and happier one.

Candles:

Be careful when lighting candles. Place them in a sturdy, non-combustible holder, and keep them away from decorations and other flammable materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with candles, and always keep candles, matches and lighters out of children's reach.

Holiday Trees:

Choose a fresh tree, and put it on a stand designed not to tip over. When purchasing a tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break off.

The trunk of a tree is sticky with resin, and when bounced on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. When you get the tree home, be sure to cut at least one inch off the bottom of the trunk allowing for better water absorption to the tree.

Place the tree well away from any heat source, as the tree will dry out quicker. Water the tree every day. When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it has a label stating the tree is fire retardant.

Decorating:

When decorating with lights, purchase only those that bear the mark of a testing laboratory. Check each strand of lights for damaged wiring, as this can cause a fire. Always unplug the tree when going to sleep or leaving the home. Never use lights on metallic trees, as they can become charged with electricity and cause an electrocution. Avoid decorating with breakable items. Avoid placing small items at the bottom of the tree where small children and/or animals can remove them and ingest them. Holly and mistletoe can be fatal to a small child. Even a small dose can cause serious medical problems.

For more information on Fire Prevention, please visit www.scottsdalefd.com or call 312-FIRE.

For more information on Crime Prevention, please call Officer Mark Ruffennach at (480) 312-5696 and **BE SAFE!**

CRIME TREND

A crime trend has emerged in District 2 involving burglaries from vehicles. Suspects are cutting battery cables to disable vehicle alarm systems. Once the alarm has been defeated, suspects remove various types of property from the interior of the vehicle (satellite radios, navigation systems, stereos, purses, briefcases, cell phones, credit cards etc.). Entries to vehicles are often made via the driver side door. Vehicles are usually located in residential driveways or employee parking lots.

Quick tips:

1. Always lock your vehicle and remove valuables.
2. Install an alarm with a battery backup system.
3. Park your vehicle in your garage and lock the door from your garage entering into your residence.
4. Utilize enhanced lighting around your property.
5. Report any unusual activity to the Police.

Calendar of Events

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

APS Holiday of Lights 12/9/05-12/30/05

More than 100,000 lights will adorn trees and displays during APS Holiday of Lights. Festivities kick off at 6:30p.m. - 9:00p.m. Friday, December 9th. The park is located on the southwest corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale road. For more information call (480)-312-2312.

Scottsdale Police Department



Wants You!

The Scottsdale Police Department has excellent job opportunities in the following fields:

Police Officer, Police Aide, Communications, Detention Officers, Crime Lab, Records, and Crime Scene Specialists. Visit our website at www.Scottsdalepd.com or contact Officer Greg Carlin at 480-312-5384 gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov.